

# ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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### HIGHLIGHTS

MILK PRODUCTION  
LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION  
CROPPING PRACTICES  
AGRICULTURAL PRICES  
FARM LABOR

*The staff of the Illinois Field Office wishes to thank the farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses that responded to the November & December Milk Production Surveys, the September, October and November Layers & Egg Production Survey, the November Prices Received Survey and the October Labor Survey. Your responses to these surveys are important to the agricultural community.*

## MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Illinois during October 2006 totaled 160 million pounds, up two percent from last year. November only increased one percent from last year to 156 million pounds. The number of milk cows on farms, for both October and November, averaged 103,000 head, down one percent from the same months last year. Milk per cow was up three percent from last year for the month of October to 1,550 pounds and was up two percent from last year to 1,510 pounds for November.

Estimated milk production in the U.S. was up two percent from the same months last year. October milk production was at 14.9 billion pounds and November was at 14.5 billion pounds of milk. Production per cow increased in both months; up 18 pounds from last October averaging 1,631 pounds and up 23 pounds from last November averaging 1,592 pounds. The number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. was 9.11 million head in both October and November. This year there were 47,000 head more than October 2005 and 52,000 head more than November 2005.

### MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2005-2006

		October					
		Illinois			United States		
		2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	104	103	99	9,060	9,107	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,510	1,550	103	1,613	1,631	101
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	157	160	102	14,611	14,856	102
		November					
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	104	103	99	9,056	9,108	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,480	1,510	102	1,569	1,592	101
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	154	156	101	14,209	14,500	102

## LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION

### LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION, ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2005-2006

		Illinois					
		September		October		November 1/	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		4,526	5,076	4,626	5,053	4,446	5,131
Eggs produced (million)		104	115	111	121	105	118
		United States					
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		340,914	342,611	342,823	343,894	345,874	345,696
Eggs produced (million)		7,348	7,420	7,665	7,666	7,514	7,522

1/ Preliminary.

# CROPPING PRACTICES

Each year the Illinois Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a survey in randomly selected corn and soybean fields throughout the state. Counts and measurements are made by enumerators during monthly visits to these plots. From late July through harvest, the data collected provides information on crop development and yield prospects throughout the growing season.

Information in the following tables represents rounded sample data averages from this survey and are subject to sampling variations. These numbers are intended to show trends in corn and soybean production practices.

## CORN

In 2006, the row width of corn for grain in Illinois averaged 30.3 inches, equal to the row width recorded last year. The average row spacing continued the decreasing trend with 84.9 percent of the acreage in the 20.6 - 30.5 inch row spacing category.

Plant population of corn for grain in Illinois was a record tying 28,000 plants per acre. This tied the record attained last year. The number of ears per acre, at 27,400 was up 550 from last year and is equal to the record high first realized in 2004.

**CORN FOR GRAIN: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2002-2006**

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)						Average row width
		20.5 or less	20.6 - 30.5	30.6 - 34.5	34.6 - 36.5	36.6 - 38.5	38.6 & greater	
	Number	Percent of samples						Inches
2002	269	0.7	74.4	11.9	8.2	3.7	1.1	30.8
2003	268	0.7	75.8	12.3	6.7	4.1	0.4	30.7
2004	275	0.7	84.1	9.8	3.6	1.8	--	30.4
2005	281	1.4	82.5	9.3	3.2	3.6	--	30.3
2006	277	1.4	84.9	9.0	3.6	1.1	--	30.3

**CORN FOR GRAIN: AVERAGE PLANT POPULATION & EARS PER ACRE, ILLINOIS, 2002-2006**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of plants	26,350	27,050	27,700	28,000	28,000
Number of ears	25,000	26,650	27,400	26,850	27,400

## SOYBEANS

The average row width of soybeans in Illinois was 16.6 inches in 2006, five-tenths of an inch wider than last year. The most common row width

category was the 10.1 - 18.5 inch, accounting for 58.8 percent of the acreage.

**SOYBEANS: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2002-2006**

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)					Average row 1/ width
		10.0 or less 1/	10.1 - 18.5	18.6 - 28.5	28.6 - 34.5	34.6 & greater	
	Number	Percent of samples					Inches
2002	216	36.9	44.8	2.1	14.8	1.4	15.5
2003	202	35.4	46.2	3.5	13.9	1.0	15.2
2004	219	32.2	49.6	2.7	14.4	1.1	15.3
2005	220	24.5	55.7	3.4	15.5	0.9	16.1
2006	215	20.2	58.8	2.1	18.4	0.5	16.6

1/ Broadcast soybeans included as "10.0 inches and less" but excluded in computation of average width.

**SOYBEANS: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PODS WITH BEANS PER 18 SQUARE FEET, ILLINOIS, 2002-2006**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
September	1,952	1,800	2,070	1,973	2,035
October	1,785	1,606	1,923	1,820	1,890
November	1,795	1,634	1,943	1,858	1,923
Final	1,802	1,634	1,947	1,858	N/A

N/A Not available.

# AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The November index of prices received by Illinois farmers for all commodities was 132 percent of the base, up 14 points from the revised October figure and 26 points above November 2005. The current year's base was computed by multiplying the average production for the five-year period by the average price for each year. These five years were summed and then divided by five to arrive at an average (base) for the period. The current five-year average production was then multiplied by the current price and divided by the average for the five years to arrive at the current index. The November All Crops index, at 138 percent of the base, was 19 points above the revised October number and 38 points above November 2005. All crop prices increased from last month except for wheat. The All Livestock index was at 113 percent of the base, down one point from the revised October number and 14 points below November 2005. The price for all milk rose while prices for all other livestock categories declined. The hog-corn ratio was at 13.9.

The U.S. preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 121 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased five points from October. The Crop Index was up ten points but the Livestock Index decreased one point. Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and milk. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, oranges, and hogs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

## INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Oct. 2006	Nov. 15, 2006
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		1999-2003=100	2000-2004=100	
All Farm Products	107	106	118 *	132
All Crops	101	100	119 *	138
Food grains	103	98	136 *	130
Feed grains/hay	93	92	126 *	152
Soybeans	113	111	108 *	118
All Livestock	125	127	114 *	113
Meat animals	127	128	116 *	114
Dairy products	116	121	103 *	109
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		1990-92=100		
All Farm Products	111	112	116 *	121
All Crops	103	105	115 *	125
Food grains	113	114	151 *	152
Feed grains/hay	85	83	116 *	137
Oilseeds	97	99	95 *	108
All Livestock	122	121	117 *	116
Meat animals	121	120	118 *	112
Dairy products	119	116	103 *	106
Prices Paid	144	142	146 *	146
Parity Ratio 1/	77	79	79 *	83

1/ Prices received index divided by prices paid index.

\* Revised.

## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	Illinois				United States			
		Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Oct. 2006	Nov. 15, 2006	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Oct. 2006	Nov. 15, 2006
		Dollars							
Corn	Bushels	1.83	1.87	2.62 *	3.20	1.82	1.77	2.54 *	3.12
Soybeans	Bushels	5.68	5.78	5.65 *	6.30	5.67	5.62	5.52 *	6.15
Sorghum	Cwt.	2.97	3.23	3/	5.40	2.99	2.82	5.17 *	5.88
Wheat, all	Bushels	2.93	2.85	4.09 *	4.05	3.43	3.45	4.59 *	4.62
Oats	Bushels	3/	3/	3/	2.00	1.59	1.64	1.77 *	1.97
Hay, all baled	Tons	94.00	95.00	95.00	98.00	97.70	91.70	107.00 *	106.00
Alfalfa hay, bld	Tons	100.00	101.00	102.00	104.00	105.00	98.30	112.00 *	109.00
Other hay, bld	Tons	77.00	77.00	76.00	80.00	79.00	80.00	93.80 *	98.10
Hogs, all	Cwt.	47.40	44.20	46.90 *	44.50	47.00	43.50	46.50 *	44.50
Barrows, Gilts	Cwt.	48.00	45.00	48.00 *	45.50	47.30	43.80	47.00 *	44.80
Sows	Cwt.	39.90	35.50	34.80 *	33.60	41.60	37.30	36.90 *	36.10
Beef cattle	Cwt.	87.70	87.20	87.20 *	84.20	90.40	90.80	88.50 *	84.40
Cows	Cwt.	49.00	48.00	47.00 *	46.00	46.60	45.90	45.90 *	43.70
Steers, Heifers	Cwt.	88.50	88.00	88.00 *	85.00	96.10	97.10	94.00 *	90.00
Calves	Cwt.	119.00	124.00	115.00 *	108.00	135.00	137.00	127.00 *	119.00
Milk cows	Head	1,870.00	2/	1,610.00	2/	1,870.00	2/	1,650.00 *	2/
Milk, all	Cwt.	15.70	15.30	14.70 *	14.80	15.60	15.10	13.50 *	13.80
Milk, fluid	Cwt.	15.70	15.30	14.70	3/	15.60	15.10	13.50 *	13.80
Milk, mfg.	Cwt.	15.60	15.00	14.30	3/	14.80	14.30	12.70 *	13.10
Hog-corn ratio		25.9	23.6	17.9 *	13.9	25.8	24.6	18.3 *	14.3

1/ Prices received represents the average of all grades or classes at point of first sale and should not be confused with market quotations.

2/ Estimated in January, April, July and October.

3/ State prices not published.

\* Revised.

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## FARM LABOR

### HIRED WORKERS: NUMBER & HOURS WORKED, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 8-14, 2006 1/

Hired workers: number & hours worked, by region, October 1, 1991				
REGION 2/	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
		Thousands		Hours per week
LAKE	57	36	21	39.4
CORNBELT I	48	33	15	40.5
CORNBELT II	25	20	5	43.1
U.S.	797	592	205	41.6

### HIRED WORKERS: WAGE RATES FOR TYPE OF WORKERS & ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 8-14, 2006 1/

REGION 2/	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & livestock combined	
			Dollars per hour	
LAKE	9.89	9.61	9.80	10.35
CORNBELT I	10.12	9.04	9.75	10.63
CORNBELT II	9.70	10.26	9.95	10.65
U.S.	9.25	9.41	9.29	9.95

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers.

2/ Regions consist of the following: LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORNBELT II: IA, MO; UNITED STATES: Excludes Alaska.

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